

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6461**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1066

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 13, 2006

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Persons with a Disability.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Crooks

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**    **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill provides that certain persons with a disability may purchase hunting and fishing licenses at a reduced fee.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Summary:* The total annual revenue loss to the Fish and Wildlife Fund from the three affected categories of licenses is projected to be \$70,000.

*Background:* This bill provides that persons with a developmental disability or with a disability that qualifies for supplemental security income (SSI) from the federal Social Security Administration may pay a reduced fee of \$2.75 for a hunting and/or fishing license. Each year a qualified individual may obtain both a resident yearly license to fish and a resident yearly license to hunt; or a resident yearly license to hunt and fish, by paying \$2.75 instead of the prescribed fee.

Existing fees for an annual hunting or an annual fishing license is \$17. The fee for an annual hunting and fishing license is \$25. Of the license amount, \$0.75 is retained by the agent that sells the license. Individuals eligible for a reduced license will receive a \$14.25 reduction in fees for a hunting license or for a fishing license. Individuals eligible for a reduced license will receive a \$22.25 reduction for a hunting and fishing license.

Estimates of the number of persons with disabilities who fish and hunt in the following projections were

calculated using the percentage of the state population that obtains licenses for these activities. The estimate of Indiana's total population of 6,271,973 for 2005 was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. Persons under 18 years old represented 25.7% of the total population while individuals 65 and over represented 12.4% of the population for an approximate total of 38.1% of the population that would not be required to purchase a license, leaving an eligible pool of 61.9% or 3,882,351 people in an age bracket that would currently pay the full fee for fishing and/or hunting.

The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) reports that the total number of eligible individuals for Developmental Disabilities Services within the FSSA database between the ages of 17 to 65 is 25,668, or 6.6% of the eligible population.

*Fishing License Fee:* Based on data from the Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), an estimated 10% of Indiana's population purchased a fishing license. If the same percentage of individuals with disabilities obtained fishing licenses, an estimated 2,566 individuals would purchase a fishing license at the reduced fee.

This bill reduces the yearly resident fishing license fee for qualifying individuals from \$17 to \$2.75, for a reduction of \$14.25. The selling agent would retain \$0.75 of the fee, leaving total state revenue loss per license at \$13.50. The annual revenue loss from this license category would be equal to the number of estimated eligible individuals multiplied by the revenue loss per license, or \$34,641 (2,566 \* \$13.50).

*Hunting License Fee.* Based on DNR data, an estimated 7% of the population purchased a license to hunt. If the same percentage were applied to the eligible population, an estimated 1,796 individuals would be eligible for the reduced fee. This bill reduces the current resident yearly hunting fee for qualified individuals from \$17.00 to \$2.75, or a reduction of \$14.25 with the DNR losing \$13.50 per license. The annual revenue loss would be equal to the number of estimated eligible individuals multiplied by the revenue loss per license, or \$24,246 (1,796 \* \$13.50).

*Hunting and Fishing License Fee.* Roughly 2% of Indiana's population obtained a license for both hunting and fishing. If the same percentage of individuals with disabilities obtain hunting and fishing licenses, 513 individuals would purchase licenses for reduced fees. This bill reduces the current resident yearly hunting and fishing fee for qualified individuals from \$25 to \$2.75, or a reduction of \$22.25, for a revenue loss of \$21.50 per license. The annual revenue loss would be equal the number of individuals affected multiplied by the revenue loss per license, or \$11,030 (513 \* \$21.50).

*Total Impact:* The total annual revenue loss from the three affected categories of licenses is \$69,917 (\$34,641 + \$24,246 + \$11,030).

Revenues collected from fishing and hunting license fees are deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund. The operating budgets of the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Law Enforcement are funded through this fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DNR.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Kirt Baker, FSSA, 317-232-7869; U.S. Census; DNR.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bernadette Bartlett, 317-232-9586.